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**Written Testimony of Thomas Leyden, SunPower Corporation,
Presented to the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
March 4, 2010**

Written Testimony in support of House Bill 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Founded in 1985, SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq: SPWRA, SPWRB) designs, manufactures and delivers the planet's most powerful solar technology broadly available today. Residential, business, government and utility customers rely on our company's experience and proven results to maximize return on investment. With headquarters in San Jose, Calif., SunPower has offices in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia – and its East Coast office in Trenton, NJ.

SunPower appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 5362. We strongly support this legislation and we commend the sponsors for rejecting the premise that difficult economic times preclude us from executing necessary changes in our energy profile. Instead, the sponsors recognize this effort as a critical path to achieving energy independence, stabilizing long-term energy costs, and building a basis for economic recovery in the jobs and benefits that accrue from a vibrant, sustainable, local solar industry.

The solar energy industry has now firmly established itself as a growth engine for our country and the many states which have implemented comprehensive development programs. More than 1,000 MW of PV capacity have been installed nation-wide. In 2007 alone, expansions of solar energy companies resulted in 6,000 new jobs, 265 megawatts of energy and more than \$2 billion of investment in the U.S. economy¹. And unlike many other energy sources, the economic case for solar continues to improve as the industry has reduced installed costs by more than 30% over the last dozen years².

A recognized industry leader, SunPower both manufactures and installs solar energy systems, and we have commercial teams focused on nearly every segment of the solar industry from residential to commercial to utility scale projects. This strategy is a direct reflection of our belief that development of all of all industry segments leads to the most robust market and generates the most economic benefit for states which pursue the most comprehensive approaches.

- Consistent with these core beliefs, HB 5362 significantly expands the solar market in Connecticut by continuing the current Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) rebate program for residential systems while adding an SREC based program for commercial systems from 50kW to 2MW and a specific segment for utility-scale ground-mounted systems.

¹ Solar Energy Industries Association

² Tracking the Sun II, October 2009, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory

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We also believe in the inherent benefits of a market-based approach. SunPower has now installed or under contract over 35MW of solar energy systems in NJ and another 10 MW across other East Coast states. NJ in particular now has over 130 MW of total solar energy capacity installed and is adding approximately 5MW per month. Many East Coast markets are similar in that they utilize an SREC based mechanism to support project development and installation statistics validate that such a mechanism can be successful and efficient for ratepayers.

- Building from proven practices, HB 5362 implements an SREC procurement model very similar to that of New Jersey. With contract terms of 15 years, a transparent RFP process, and simplified procurement and pricing structures for systems under 50kW, this is a model well positioned for success.
- HB 5362 also provides clear signals to the market by providing an incentive schedule for residential rebates which is reduced as solar costs decline. This ensures installers and customers will know what to expect in the years to come and encourages them to invest accordingly. It also ensures the incentives are properly managed to avoid "boom and bust" cycles that occur from over-heated or under-supported markets.

In summary, HB 5362 has many of the necessary ingredients for building a successful, thriving solar industry. It will help will bring jobs and many other direct and indirect economic benefits including rate stabilization, energy security and infrastructure investment. And it will position Connecticut as an integral part of the new Clean Energy Economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas Leyden
Managing Director